THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Existence of highly congested and narrow roads on Kashmiri Gate side make this proposal unsuitable.

Allocation of funds for construction of new broad-gauge railway line in Rajasthan

4815. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway Board has received any request on 27th January, 1993 from Rajasthan Government for the funding of cost of construction of new broad-gauge "Palace on Wheels" which is going to cost more than Rs. 20 crores ;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have so far taken any final decision for sharing the cost with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation keeping in view the tourist season of 1995-96 ; and

(c) what is the position till to date on the request of Rajasthan Government for this prestigious tourist air-conditioned new broad-gauge Palace on Wheels with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Proposal of Government of Rajasthan to share the cost of construction of the broad-gauge train on 50:50 basis with Indian Railways has been agreed to. The State Government has been advised accordingly.

Manufacture of stainless steel railway coaches

4816. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways soon will be manufacturing stainless steel railway coaches ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether these stainless steel coaches are being manufactured for domestic use or for exports ; and

(d) if these are to be exported what are the details of such exports ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) and (d) Yes Sir. It has been decided to manufacture two proto type all stainless steel coaches.

(c) and (d) The stainless steel coaches being manufactured are for domestic use. There are no export orders, as yet, for supply of such coaches.

Railway accidents

4817. SHRI RAGHAVJI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of rail accidents which have taken place under the Central Railway during the period from 1st January, to 31st January, 1994 together with the total estimated loss suffered due to the said accidents ; and

(b) what are the causes of these accidents together with the precautionary measures being taken to avoid the recurrence of such accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) During January, 1994, 2 accidents occurred on Central Railway, and the loss is estimated to be Rs. 11,81,000/-.

(b) One accident occurred at an unmanned level crossing due to negligence of road user and the other due to 'track failure'.

Some of the safety measures taken to prevent accidents include renewal and rehabilitation of over-aged assets like tracks, bridges, rolling stock, etc. Track structure is being constantly upgraded on selected high density routes. Ultrasonic testing of rails and axels is resorted to, to identify fractures. Induction and extention of signalling aids such as Auxiliary Warning System, axle counters, Route Relay Inter-locking and track circuiting has been speeded up. Intensive inspection and examination of track, wagons and